

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

10 December 1948

Joint Intelligence Group

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, ORR, CIA

Subject: Estimate of Soviet Capabilities to wage Chemical
and Biological Warfare

1. The Joint Strategic Plans Group requested that the Central Intelligence Agency furnish them with an estimate of Soviet capabilities to conduct chemical and biological warfare.

2. It is important that plans envisage an adequate defense against the threat of both biological and chemical warfare weapons, but in order that undue emphasis may not be placed on a defense against these weapons at the expense of other requirements, it is necessary that Soviet capabilities be fully evaluated and placed in their proper relative strategic importance.

3. To obtain a complete picture, CIA is requested to furnish an estimate of Soviet capabilities in the biological and chemical warfare fields, in the event of war commencing before 1 July 1950. The estimate should reflect any significant changes in capabilities anticipated by 1 July 1950.

4. It is requested that this information be given to me by December 16, 1948. It will not be necessary to contact the other Services.

JOSEPH HALVERSEN
Colonel, GSC

cc: Dr J H Andrews